The non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector have been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned. There has been no reports of financial crunch in this area.

Wind power capacity in India

854. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the wind power capacity in India.

(b) the policy of the Government to encourage exploration of this avenue by 2007; and

(c) the role of Indian Wind Energy Association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) A wind power capacity aggregating 2074 MW has been installed so far in the country.

(b) The gross wind power potential in the country has been estimated at about 45,000 MW. The technical potential, which can be tapped at present is, however, limited to about 13,390 MW. A wind power capacity addition of 1500 MW is envisaged during the 10th Plan.

(c) The Indian Wind Energy Association is one among the several wind energy associations involved in wind power related issues in the country. However, only the Centre for Wind Energy Technology, Chennai has been implementing the Wind Resource Assessment Programme of the Government in association with the State Nodal Agencies.

Creating non-conventional energy Sources

855. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is giving special preference for creating Non-Conventional Energy Sources in every State, if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(b) whether Non–conventional Energy Sources are economical and less expensive; and

(c) whether it could reach the remote areas?